

Message Text

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43

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

SSO-00 SY-07 USIE-00 INR-10 INRE-00 /027 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6232

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 1739

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SUBJECT FR (DEBRAY, REGIS)

SUBJECT: VISAS DONKEY

REF: PARIS 1582

1. IN COURSE OF WEEKLY MEETING JANUARY 21, QUAI AMERICAS DIRECTOR DE ST. LEGIER TOLD POLCOUNS THAT REGIS DEBRAY HAD TOLD HIM OF HIS INTENTION TO VISIT THE US. ST. LEGIER, FORMER FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN CHILE, WHO HAS KNOWN DEBRAY AND HIS WIFE FOR NUMBER OF YEARS, ASKED DEBRAY JOCLARLY WHETHER HE WAS "GOING TO THE US TO PREACH REVOLUTION." DEBRAY REPLIED, IN SERIOUS VEIN, THAT HE WANTED TO VISIT HIS WIFE AND TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH US, A COUNTRY WHICH FASCINATED HIM BUT WHICH HE KNEW LITTLE ABOUT. HE TOLD ST. LEGIER HE HAD NO INTENTION OF ENGAGING IN ANY POLIICAL ACTIVITY.

2. ST. LEGIER SAID DEBRAY IS AN INTELLIGENT POLITICAL OBSERVER, CAPABLE OF CHANGING HIS MOST PREJUDICED IDEAS. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ST. LEGIER ARRANGED FOR DEBRAY TO BE THE GUST SPEAKER AT AN ENA SEMINAR ON LATIN AMERICA. (ENA IS FRANCE'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCHOOL FOR TRAINING DIPLOMATS AND CIVIL SERVANTS.) DURING SEMINAR, ST. LEGIER WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR DEBRAY DECRIBE LATIN AMERICAN MARXIST REVOLUTIONARY ESPERIENCE IN CRITICAL, DISPARAGING

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TERMS.

3. ST. LEGIER VOLUNTEERED ADVICE THAT US GRANT DEBRAY A VISITOR'S VISA. HE BELIEVED DEBRAY WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN UNAUTHORIZED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. US REFUSAL OF VISA COULD WELL PROMPT DEBRAY, ST. LEGIER SAID, TO MAKE UNFLATTERING PUBLICITY ABOUT US WHICH WOULD PROVIDE GRIST FOR LEFT-WING INTELLECTUAL MILL AND NEWS MEDIA. FINALLY, ST. LEGIER COMMENTED THAT DESPITE DEBRAY'S REPUTATION, HE IS CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT AND US VISIT MIGHT HAVE SALUTARY EFFECTON HIS VIEWS ABOUT AMERICA.
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS01739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740127/aaaaazrr.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARIS 1582
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <24 APR 2002 by boyleja, INA>; RELEASED <30 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISAS DONKEY
TAGS: CVIS, FR, (DEBRAY, REGIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005